

THE HONORABLE JAMES L. ROBART

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	No. CR19-230 JLR
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING STIPULATED
)	MOTION TO PROCEED WITH REMOTE
LEONTAI BERRY,)	GUILTY PLEA BY VIDEOCONFERENCE
)	
Defendants.)	

This matter comes before the Court on the defendant's stipulated motion to proceed with a remote guilty plea hearing by video conference.

Having fully considered the record in this matter, the Court HEREBY FINDS that a video or telephonic guilty plea hearing should take place as soon as practical because further delays in this case would cause "serious harm to the interests of justice." *See* General Order No. 04-20 (3/30/20). Specifically, Mr. Berry was indicted on November 7, 2019, and, after a defense request for a continuance, his trial was scheduled for June 22, 2020. Dkt. 1, 32. His trial date was vacated when COVID-19 pandemic required closure of the Seattle and Tacoma courthouses and was recently reset for July 1, 2021. *See* Dkt. 44, 86; *see also* General Order 04-21.

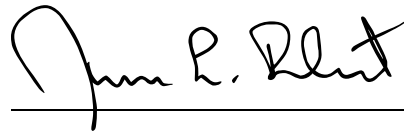
1 During this lengthy period of trial delay necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr.
2 Berry has been subject to the terms of an appearance bond. Dkt. 22. Mr. Berry wants to move
3 toward a final resolution of this matter by entering a guilty plea.

4 For the past year, the Court has conducted plea hearings via videoconference in an
5 attempt to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. *See* General Order 06-21. The Chief
6 Judge of this District has concluded that, in the interest of public health and safety, those
7 procedures should continue through at least June 2021.

8 Therefore, the Court GRANTS the defendant's motion and ORDERS that a guilty plea
9 hearing be scheduled by videoconference. The parties are directed to contact the magistrate
10 clerks to schedule the videoconference plea hearing.
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12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13 DATED this 20th of April, 2021.

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17 The Honorable James L. Robart
18 U.S. District Court Judge

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21 Respectfully submitted April 20, 2021

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23 s/Cathy Gormley
24 _____
25 Cathy Gormley #26169
26 Counsel for Mr. Berry